

ROBERT FLOWER.

JULY 7, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BELKNAP, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 7632.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7632) entitled "A bill to remove charge of desertion from the military record of Robert Flower," report the same back to the House with the recommendation that it do pass.

It appears from the records of the War Department that Robert Flower was enrolled and mustered into service February 19, 1862, as a private in Company E, Seventy-ninth Regiment New York Infantry Volunteers, to serve three years. He appears to have served faithfully (except from March 29 to April 1, 1863, when reported absent without leave) to May 31, 1864, when he is reported to have deserted at New York City.

From the statement of the soldier and from other evidence it appears that he came home when the regiment came back to New York City on May 30, 1864; that at this time he was suffering severely from swollen feet and weak back; that his weak back resulted in kidney disease, on account of which he was obliged to undergo three severe operations, and that same later resulted in paralysis, rendering him almost totally helpless, both hands, one leg, and part of his face and throat being paralyzed. The soldier is now dead, but has stated in an affidavit that he never received any notice of recall to his regiment.

His character and service are attested by the certificates of his officers, as follows:

NEW YORK, *September 18, 1895.*

This is to certify that Robert Flower was a member of Company E, Seventy-ninth New York Volunteers, and was a good soldier, and served over two years at the front and participated in thirteen battles.

D. MORRISON,
Late Colonel Seventy-ninth New York Volunteers.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1895.

This is to certify that Robert Flower was a member of Company E, Seventy-ninth New York Volunteers, and was a good and faithful soldier while under my command.

ROBERT GAIR,
Late Captain Company E, Seventy-ninth New York Volunteers.

STATE OF NEW YORK, *County of New York, ss:*

This is to certify that I know Robert Flower, Company E, Seventy-ninth Regiment New York Volunteers; that I served in the same company with him. I always found him to do his duty as a soldier faithfully. I have been in several battles with him. He came home with the regiment May, 1864, and that he served over two years. I did not know of him being absent from his company at any time during his service.

JOSEPH MATHEWS,

Sergeant-Major Seventy-ninth Regiment New York Volunteers.

Sworn to before me this 27th day of September, 1895.

[SEAL.]

P. J. BRADY,

Notary Public, Kings County.

In view of the soldier's good record, and his inability to return to his command by reason of his disabilities, after due consideration, your committee recommend that the bill do pass, with the following amendment:

After line 9 add:

Provided, That no pay, bounty, or other emoluments shall become due or payable by virtue of the passage of this act.

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